

Ministry programs and initiatives

Ontario's Progress in Pollution Prevention

Report Summary

In documenting Ontario's progress in preventing pollution, a ministry report summarizes the successes achieved through voluntary partnerships, the Pollution Prevention Pledge Program, education and training efforts, and a number of other initiatives in which the ministry is playing a leading role.

Pollution prevention offers significant advantages over traditional environmental management techniques. The focus is on anticipating and preventing pollution, reducing the use of toxic chemicals and minimizing the generation of industrial wastes. While these activities result in significant progress in the protection and preservation of the ecosystem, they also provide opportunities to improve operating efficiencies, reduce operating costs, decrease environmental risk and limit liability.

The objectives of pollution prevention have been successfully pursued through a number of innovative partnerships with various client groups, private companies, municipalities and other ministries and government agencies. MOEE also promotes pollution prevention through incentive/recognition programs, through training and education efforts and through its own leadership.

Voluntary pollution prevention partnerships

Voluntary pollution prevention partnerships are designed to encourage and support the development and implementation of pollution prevention projects within industrial, commercial, community and government sectors. Under these agreements, considerations of environmental management and pollution prevention are incorporated into business plans and reductions are made in the toxic substances used, generated and released. Partnerships also promote and increase awareness of pollution prevention principles.

To date, Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been developed with five business sectors as well as the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth. These have resulted in publicly reported reductions of wastes generated and/or the use and release of toxic

substances. The partners have also developed pollution prevention planning models and implementation strategies which can be used by other companies, sectors, municipalities and agencies.

Participation and reductions reported in the use, generation and release of toxic substances and wastes (through MOUs) are summarized in the following table:

Additional partnership agreements have been developed with seven other sectors and organizations. These agreements differ from MOUs in that they are not delivered through formalized agreements. In addition, pollution prevention may be only one of several objectives (which may also include improvements in waste handling, business management, worker health and safety or other areas). Success is not measured only in terms of toxic reductions, but also through accomplishments such as:

- ◆ participation levels;
- ◆ the provision of training programs and workshops;
- ◆ the development of guidance manuals, videos, newsletters, codes of practice, studies, inventories;
- ◆ the development and implementation of pollution prevention plans, environmental management systems, improved operating practices, environmentally sound business practices, best management practices;
- ◆ supplier participation, knowledge sharing and other outreach activities.

The objectives, participants, implementation history and progress made to date under individual MOUs and other partnership agreements are summarized in the voluntary pollution prevention partnerships section.

Pollution Prevention Pledge Program (P⁴)

MOEE's P⁴ initiative acknowledges the environmental achievements of industrial, commercial, institutional, community and government enterprises. The program is designed to encourage the voluntary adoption of pollution prevention and pollution prevention planning throughout the province. Recognition is given to facilities that have achieved reductions (or have planned reductions) in: the release of chemicals to the environment, the use of toxic chemicals, and/or the generation or disposal of hazardous and liquid industrial wastes.

As of December 1996, 195 sites have enrolled in the program. Of these, 75 sites have registered at the P¹ level and 120 sites have registered projects beyond the P¹ level. Total reductions achieved and reported through this program, at the P³ and P⁴ levels, account for 30,000 tonnes per year. Some of the award-winning programs carried out under the P⁴ initiative are summarized in the P⁴ section of this report.

Education, training and tools

The objective of this aspect of the ministry's program is to develop and deliver training and educational programs, that promote the adoption of pollution prevention by facilities at an operational level. These programs provide practical instructional tools for industrial, commercial and government sectors.

Four types of education and training are undertaken: awareness training, practical tools training, hands-on, how-to training and train-the-trainer training. These are provided to: business and industry partners, municipal and

community groups, educational institutions, conferences and workshops, international forums and internal ministry staff. Delivery and funding of education, training and educational tools are provided by various groups, often through a partnership with MOEE.

Pollution prevention guidebooks, environmental management systems, case studies, videos and codes of management practice have been developed to aid client groups in their efforts to improve environmental quality and minimize pollution and wastes. A number of these initiatives are described in the section on education, training and tools.

Ministry leadership

The goal is to incorporate pollution prevention and environmental management principles into government programs, policies, projects and legislation. A number of MOEE activities and projects now have a pollution prevention component and have demonstrated that pollution prevention can effectively be integrated with other tools of environmental protection. These programs and activities are summarized in the section on ministry leadership initiatives.

Progress in pollution prevention

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Number of facilities</i>	<i>Number of case studies</i>	<i>Tonnes/year</i>
Auto Parts Manufacturers	8	22	660
Canadian Chemical Producers	11	15	12000
Metal Finishing	17	14	287
Motor Vehicles Manufacturing	28	66	152000
Printing and Graphics	7	2	52

Copies of the "Ontario's Progress in Pollution Prevention" are available by contacting Pollution Prevention office at (416) 314-7918.

For more information, please contact:

Ministry of Environment and Energy, Public Information Centre at
(416) 325-4000 or toll free at 1-800-565-4923

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